GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3309
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
WATER METERS INSTALLED IN VIP BUILDINGS
BHERU LAL MEENA;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water meters installed in various public buildings such as Parliament House, North Avenue, South Avenue, Western Court, V.P. House etc. are mostly out of order for a very long time and huge amount of inflated water bills are being raised on provisional basis by NDMC without supplying even minimum quantity of water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action the Government proposes to take against NDMC for not maintaining the water meters properly installed in individual flats and charging inflated bills including meter rent also;

(d) whether the Government propose to refund the excess amount charged by NDMC from the consumers;

(e) if so, the number of complaints for the excess billing received from the above places during the last one year; and

(f) if so the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a)&(b): The NDMC has reported that many water meters in these VIP buildings are out of order and therefore water bills are being sent on provisional basis based on the consumption recorded by the meter when the same were functioning properly. New water meters are now being procured by NDMC to replace the defective meters.

(c)&(d): It has been stated by the NDMC that as far as water meters installed in individual Govt. flats/Bunglows of VIPs are concerned, most of them are working properly and efforts are made to maintain the water meters of individual premises in working condition. However, wherever water meter goes out of order, provisional billing is done for the period the meter remained defective. The billing is finalised on the basis of the consumption recorded by the meter during corresponding period where after necessary debit or credit, as the case may be, is given to the consumer in the subsequent bills.

(e): During the last one year i.e. from 1.07.2001 to 30.6.2002, only four complaints about excessive water bill were received by NDMC in respect of the VIP buildings mentioned in the Question at part (a) above.

(f): NDMC is in the process of finalisation of provisional billing and the replacement of the defective meters.